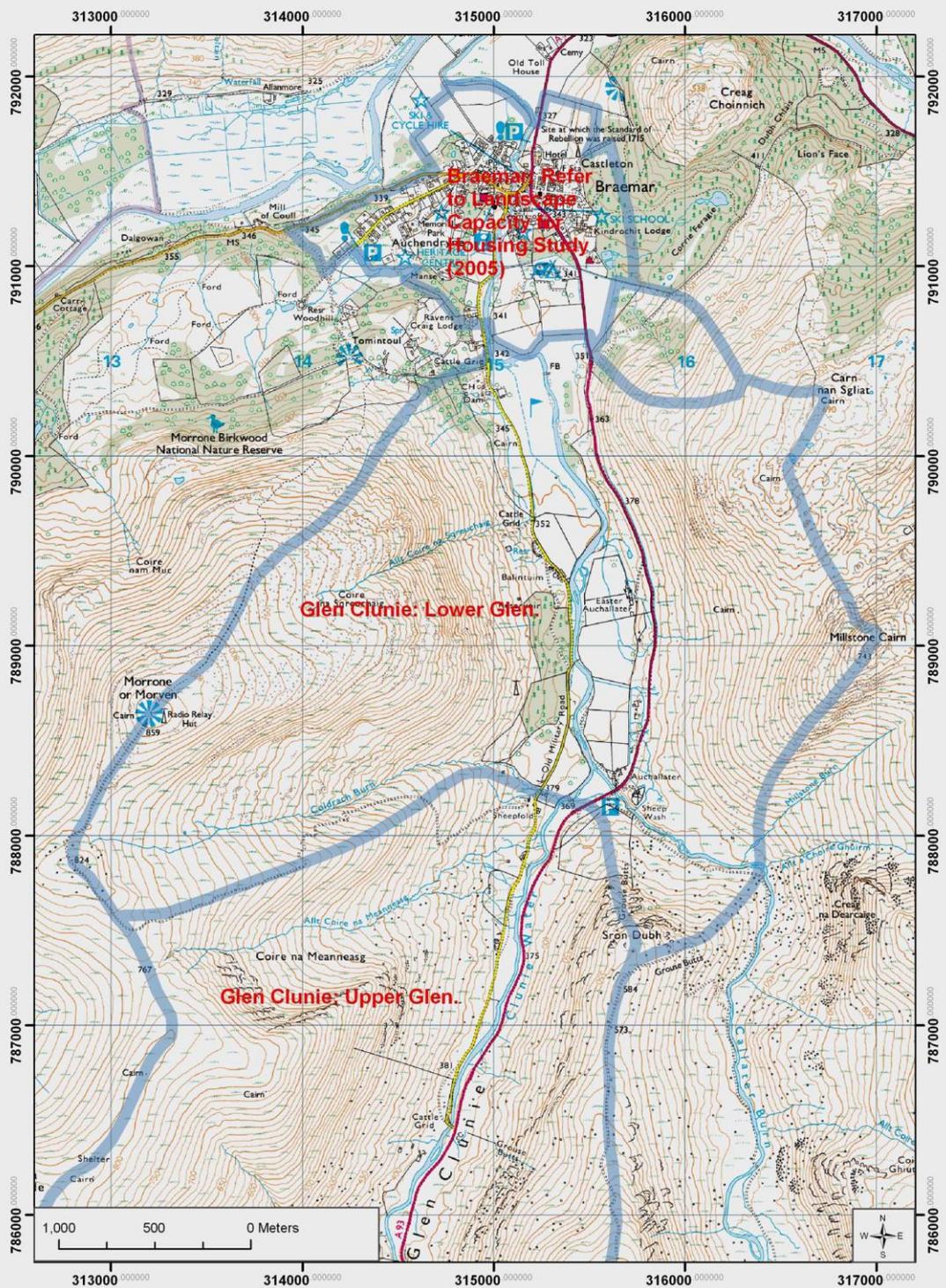


I.1 Glen Clunie: Lower Glen



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1.1.1 *Landscape Character*

- The north/south aligned Glen Clunie links the high pass of the Cairnwell and the wooded glens of Deeside
- The glen is framed by sweeping, concave-shaped hillsides rising to upper slopes of rugged rocky summits, with occasional screes reflecting post-glacial weathering
- The glen floor is a well defined floodplain worked flat by the Clunie Water and edged with hummocks and terraces of well drained glacial-fluvial deposits
- The floodplain is subdivided into regularly shaped, 18th/19th century improved fields which are fenced and grazed and, closer to Braemar, it is occupied by a golf course
- The upper slopes are heather moor, and there is one conifer woodland associated with more accessible lower slopes above the floodplain
- Occasional mature trees and sparse riparian woodland ensures that the glen appears open
- There is some conifer shelter wood on the lower side slopes, which changes to more extensive birch woodland approaching Braemar
- Settlement is limited to occasional late-18/19th century farmsteads, which appear to be on the sites of older settlements, located on the higher, free-draining hummocks of deposit at the edge of the glen
- The main public road, on the eastern side of the glen, is elevated, sitting on top of deposits at the edge of the glen
- The older military road on the western side of the glen, is a popular walking route and sits at the break in slope

1.1.2 *Landscape experience*

- The elevated main road affords panoramic views up and down the length of the glen
- The glen is relatively open, and its profile – a flat level floor contained by sharply defined, slightly concave flanks – is very simple and easy to read

1.1.3 *Relationship to adjacent character areas*

This area is experienced very much as part of the transition of landscape character travelling between Glen Shee and Braemar. It contrasts dramatically with the narrow, uncultivated upper glen of Glen Clunie, as it is wide and cultivated.

1.1.4 *Assessment of distinctiveness*

The openness of the glen floor allows the pattern of small, but regularly shaped, 19th century improved green fields to dominate, particularly from elevated viewpoints, including the road. Further evidence of past settlement becomes quickly obvious on closer inspection, and appears to inform the location of the 19th century farmsteads, set on elevated hummocks at the edge of the strath.



The wide level floor is subdivided into 19th century improved fields, with only occasional mature trees remaining



Towards Braemar, a golf course occupies the glen floor, and semi-natural woodland extends across the lower glen sides



Settlement, largely associated with 18/19th century farmsteads, is located on the hummocky terrain at the edges of the glen floor